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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Docket: YAMADA=45A

In re Application of: ) Confirmation No.:  
YUKA YAMADA et al )  
 ) Art Unit:  
 )  
Appln. No.: 09/988,396 )  
 ) Examiner:  
 )  
Filed: November 14, 2003 ) Washington, D.C.  
 )  
For: COLD CATHODE FORMING ) February 9, 2004  
PROCESS AND ELECTRON... )  
 )

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT [IDS]**

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
2011 South Clark Place  
Customer Window, Mail Stop DD  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Sir :

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, as it is filed within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application or within three months of the entry into the national stage of the above-identified international application and before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits or before

the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

2. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., Form PTO/SB/08A) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached, except as explained below.

Document AD is a U.S. patent and/or published application(s). As this is a U.S. application filed after June 30, 2003, or an entry into national stage under 35 USC §371 after June 30, 2003, the requirement to file copies of such U.S. patents or published applications has been waived. (Office of Patent Legal Administration - Pre O.G. Notice of July 11, 2003).

3. Documents AE-AG is (are) not in the English language. In accordance with §1.98(c), Applicant(s) states:

An English translation of each document AE-AG (or of the pertinent portions thereof), or a copy of each corresponding English-language patent or application, or English-language abstract (or claim) is enclosed.

A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) AE-AG is found in the attached European Patent search report (see reply to Comment 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

4. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 and 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

5. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows:

Copy of European Search Report is attached.

6. In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant(s) reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Respectfully submitted,

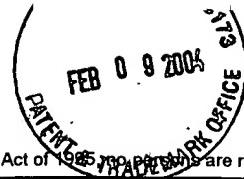
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PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

1705/5B/003a (03-03)

APPENDIX for use through 07/31/2008. OMB 0851-0031  
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>		Application Number	09/988,396
(use as many sheets as necessary)		Filing Date	November 14, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Yuka YAMADA et al
		Group Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	2
		Attorney Docket Number	YAMADA=45A

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.



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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>		Application Number	09/988,396
(use as many sheets as necessary)		Filing Date	November 14, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Yuka YAMADA et al
		Group Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
Sheet	2	of	2
		Attorney Docket Number	YAMADA=45A

#### **OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.